

REVIEWS.

DISEASES OF THE EYE. A PRACTICAL TREATISE FOR STUDENTS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY. By GEORGE A. BERRY, M.B., F.R.C.S. Ed., Ophthalmic Surgeon, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary; Senior Surgeon, Edinburgh Eye Dispensary; Lecturer on Ophthalmology, Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. Second Edition, revised and enlarged. With colored illustrations from original drawings. Pp. xxii., 727. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co., 1893.

THE first edition of this work appeared in 1889, and now in only four years we have the pleasure of perusing the second edition.

We must at the outset say that this is by far the best work upon its theme in the English language that we have seen, for the diction is pure and clear, and besides, the beautiful illustrations of normal and diseased conditions make it a valuable addition to the library of all practitioners, general as well as special. We have never seen more real delineation of disease, the coloring is perfect, and each illustration is an "object lesson."

Another great feature is, that the illustrations are to be found in the natural course of the text, and one does not have to stop and refer to some plate at the back of the volume.

There are one hundred and ninety-seven illustrations, of which ninety-three are colored, being drawings from nature, made by Dr. Tatham Thompson, of Cardiff, and Mr. Sydney Stephenson.

The volume is divided into eighteen chapters, a general index, and an index of authors. Chapter I., "Examination of the Eye," is clearly and distinctly treated of in forty-seven pages, and we are pleased to note the practical way in which the author has grouped the facts; especially well stated are the ophthalmoscopic appearances of the optic nerve in health, and the many curious vascular changes of the nerve head, shown in six drawings. Under the changes in the fundus in the aged, we note the lack of transparency in the optic nerve, and its muddy or dull look without any pathological change; also a condition of depigmentation of the retina, which may occur in patches, admitting of the structure of the choroid coming into view: both of these conditions we have seen, but they are rarely mentioned by writers. In speaking of ophthalmoscopes, he says: "Many forms of this instrument are in use, differing mainly in the form of mirror and the arrangement for bringing the different lenses behind the aperture. But there is a tendency to multiply the number of lenses and introduce refinements in the mechanism of hanging the mirror, etc., which only add to the cost, without in the least increasing the practical usefulness of the particular ophthalmoscope."

In speaking of the "light streak" on the retinal arteries, the author accepts Dimmer's theory that it is due to reflection from the blood corpuscles of the axial current of blood.

Chapter II., "Diseases of the Eyelids and Lachrymal Apparatus" occupies thirty pages, and is most perfectly illustrated in color; especially good are the two plates showing the course and direction of the lachrymal duct. We can fully concur in the remarks on the treatment of lachrymal diseases, especially that in reference to large probes, where the author says: "I am convinced that they either do no good or are positively hurtful."

In speaking of the causes of "nictitatio" and "blepharospasm," we fail to note any mention of errors of refraction as a cause; we have frequently noticed such, and immediate relief when proper correction followed.

Chapter III., "Diseases of the Conjunctiva." In this chapter the usual mode of treatment is carried out that we are all so familiar with, and it is to be commended. We would take exception to the remarks on the use of jequirity, where he says: "It is certainly unjustifiable to use it in cases where there is not very great defect of vision on account of pannus, . . . as it is impossible to control the severity of the inflammation to which it gives rise." We believe, if the author had personal experience with this method of treating granular conjunctivitis, he would not so express himself, as we in this country find it of great service, and can fully control the resulting inflammation.

We notice also the failure to mention the method of treatment known as "grattage," which for the past few years has held full sway in certain quarters, although it is a method that will not stand the test of time.

"Electric-light Ophthalmia" is mentioned, and we only notice it to say that we wish authors would cease using the word "ophthalmia," unless they mean to express the idea that the whole tissue of the eye is involved in a general inflammation.

The article on "Keratitis" is particularly interesting; especially are we interested in the "dendriform" variety, of which a beautiful plate is shown.

Chapter V., "Diseases of the Crystalline Lens." Most interesting are the etiological facts narrated under this heading. Yet after all we come back to the old idea—summed up by the author thus: "It seems not unlikely that cataract in man is due either to circulatory disturbances in the nutrient fluid of the lens, or, though less frequently, to alterations in the chemical constitution of the nutrient fluid." In speaking of the operation of extraction of cataract, the author describes and is in favor of the method *with iridectomy*, and in speaking of the claims of those who prefer *no iridectomy*, for the reason of the resulting round pupil, says, "the game is, in fact, not worth the candle," with which we quite heartily agree.

The chapter on "Diseases of the Iris and Ciliary Body" is complete and richly illustrated, and the therapeutics up to the advanced methods employed in all our large ophthalmic hospitals.

Foreign bodies in the eye are treated in a very simple and conservative manner. If we had more of this kind of surgery promulgated we would have fewer sightless eyes.

When speaking of "Sympathetic Ophthalmitis," many things are said which go to show the author a close clinical observer and a safe leader; *e. g.*, "A soft eye, in which perforation, either from accident or ulceration, has at any time taken place, and which is tender to pressure, is that which endangers the safety of the other." Again: "A perforation which has arisen from within is not so liable to be followed by sympathetic ophthalmitis as one which has taken place from without."

After a full discussion of the pathology of this affection, he concludes by accepting the theory of the migration of germs through the lymph spaces from one eye to the other, as affording the most satisfactory solution of the problem.

Tobacco amblyopia is believed in by the writer; but we have yet to see or hear of the first case well authenticated: it must be that our English brethren use the "weed" more than we.

Section I. closes with an interesting chapter on "Hemianopia."

Section II. includes within one hundred and fifty pages "Errors of Refraction and Accommodation," and "Affections of the Oculo-motor Muscles." All the refractive conditions are treated in a simple and plain way, and also in smaller type are elaborated the formulæ and equations necessary to prove the result for those who wish to know the exact method by means of which conclusions are reached. This is of service, and meets the wants of the busy reader as well as the special student.

Javal's ophthalmometer (old model) is figured, and a description of the instrument given. The author says of it: "Though affording a simple and trustworthy means of calculating the amount of astigmatism, it has the disadvantage of being expensive." While this is partly so, yet the confidence felt by the examiner more than offsets the cost of the instrument.

An exhaustive chapter on "Convergent Strabismus," giving the different views advanced by various observers, concludes with the author's accepting the explanation of Hansen Grut, which makes squinting a mere phenomenon of *innervation*, and not due to any muscular defect, further stating that such explanation is but an extension to its natural conclusion of Donders' view.

Section III., "Operations," occupies the last sixty pages of the volume.

Antiseptic surgery is commended in its practical and common-sense way, but it is not believed in as a "fad." Thus: "Some few operators in Berlin attach importance to operating in an aseptic or supposed aseptic atmosphere. . . . Such precautions are simply an evidence of an inability to understand the true nature of the sources from which the risks of septic inoculation arise."

In speaking of the operations for advancement, Prince's operation is preferred with slight modifications.

In concluding this too hasty review, we cannot but reiterate what we said at the beginning, that we have had great pleasure in the perusal of this work, and great profit, and that we consider it the best on the subject in the English language to-day, not only for its diction, but for its instructive illustrations. The publishers have given excellent paper and type.

W. O. M.

RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEDICAL LITERATURE.

1. THE RETROSPECT OF MEDICINE: A HALF-YEARLY JOURNAL CONTAINING A RETROSPECTIVE VIEW OF EVERY DISCOVERY AND PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE MEDICAL SCIENCES. Edited by JAMES BRAITHWAITE, M.D. Lond., Obstetric Physician to the Leeds General Infirmary, etc. Vol. CV., January-June, 1892; small 8vo., pp. xxi., 436. Vol. CVI., July-December, 1892; pp. xxii., 449. London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co., Limited.
2. THE DISINFECTION OF SCARLET FEVER AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES BY ANTISEPTIC INUNCTION. By J. BRENDON CURGENVEN, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., formerly House Surgeon of the Royal Free Hospital, etc. Read at meeting of the International Congress of Hygiene and Demography, held in London, August 14, 1891. 8vo., pp. 25. London: H. K. Lewis.
3. ON CONGENITAL OBLITERATION OF THE BILE-DUCTS. By JOHN THOMSON, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh; Lecturer on Diseases of Children, School of Medicine, etc. 8vo., pp. ii., 52. Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd, 1892.
4. EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA: A STUDY IN COMPARATIVE STATISTICS. By F. A. DIXEY, M.A., M.D., Fellow of Wadham College. With diagrams and tables. 8vo., pp. xv., 29. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1892.
5. DISEASES OF THE LUNGS, HEART, AND KIDNEYS. (No. 14 in the Physician's and Student's Ready-reference Series.) By N. S. DAVIS, JR., A.M., M.D., Professor of Principles and Practice of Medicine, Chicago Medical College, etc. Small 8vo., pp. vii., 359. Philadelphia and London: The F. A. Davis Co., 1892.

1. THE volumes of the *Retrospect* for the year 1892 present the profession with yet another proof of the merits which, for many years, have caused it to be a book of reference for the best medical literature of the day in a condensed form.

Naturally with so many articles by different authors, the degree of merit must vary greatly, but the articles that are not good are conspicuously few.

The present volumes, like those that have gone before, can confidently be turned to to furnish information of the latest advances in the medical sciences.

2. THE method of disinfection advocated by the author consists in smearing lightly the entire body of the patient night and morning with one of the essential oils, the best of which he holds to be the oil of eucalyptus. Better results are obtained, however, by combining two or three essential oils of different densities, since the air will then take up more of the combined vapor than when only one is used.

In the case of scarlet fever the inunctions are continued night and morning for three days. After the third day the skin is anointed only at night, after a warm bath, for seven days, when this treatment ceases and the patient joins the rest of the family.

In addition to the disinfection accomplished by this procedure, it is claimed that children become less restless and sleepless after inunction, and that the temperature drops several degrees, with a consequent lessening of the associated febrile phenomena. This latter result, however, can be obtained with any fatty or oily substance, as it is a well-known fact that free inunction of the surface with any fat, such as lard, for instance, will bring about a fall in temperature when pyrexia exists.

3. As the author rightly states in the preface to this monograph, there has never before been published a complete *résumé* of the recorded cases of this lesion. In the present work he has collected and classified forty-nine cases of this rare condition. By a series of tables, in which the clinical details and post-mortem appearances of these cases are clearly set forth, the value of the work is greatly enhanced. Indeed, the author may well feel satisfied that in this article he has presented the profession with a valuable addition to the literature of congenital malformations.

4. CONSIDERING the vast amount of literature that has been written upon the subject of epidemic influenza during the past few years, it is no small accomplishment to have composed an article that will undoubtedly assume a permanent place in the history of this malady.

The amount of labor which the author has expended in compiling the various tables of mortality, and other statistics, must have been enormous. Great as it seems to have been, however, it has been justified by the results attained. Unless we are greatly mistaken, the book will always stand as one of valuable reference for future investigators of this disease.

5. THE scope of a work of this kind is naturally restricted to the bare statement of essential facts concerning the various diseases with which it deals. Designed as a book of ready reference, the author has accomplished his purpose; it is one more added to the already numerous members of this class of medical literature. Nevertheless, the book will prove a useful possession to the hurried practitioner and student, especially as a reference for treatment, to which the author has given particular attention.

The work deserves success.

T. G. A.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF DISEASES OF THE SKIN. By P. H. PYE SMITH, M.D., F.R.S., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and Physician to Guy's Hospital, London. Small 8vo., pp. 408. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co., 1893.

THIS handbook is, in the main, a reflex of the author's own observations in the domain of dermatological medicine, and as this experience has been a large one, the book will be found to contain much of practical value to the student and practitioner. The subject matter is given in a clear, readable, and terse style. A special feature is the introduction of diagrammatic woodcuts for illustrating the local distribution of certain diseases. The introductory chapter deals with special etio-

logical and pathological factors, and a short and instructive chapter is added at the end of the book on practical classification and diagnosis. An appendix containing formulæ, description of the common soaps, the various baths and mineral springs, is also given.

The publishers have well contributed their part toward giving the volume successful presentation.

H. W. S.

HANDBOOK OF MATERIA MEDICA, PHARMACY, AND THERAPEUTICS. By SAMUEL O. L. POTTER, A.M., M.D., M.R.C.P. Lond., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Cooper Medical College of San Francisco; Visiting Physician to St. Luke's Hospital, etc. Fourth edition, revised. Pp. xvi., 781. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co., 1893.

SCARCELY more than a year has passed since the reviewer carefully read the third edition of this book. The opinion of its merits which he then expressed has been verified by the favor with which it has been received by the profession. The present edition bears evidence of careful revision without presenting any departure from the original plan of the work. The sum total of the additions is fourteen pages, and yet this small addition by no means conveys a just idea of the improvements to be found. The newer remedies, as aristol, chloralamid, diuretin, phenacetine, and piperazine, are for the first time considered, and brief notices of phenolid, exalgine, salipyrine, and hypnal are found. We believe that this list could, with profit, have included salophen, hydrastinin, bismuth salicylate, and thiol. Many sections have been considerably enlarged, as those upon acetanilide, the treatment of alcoholism, of influenza, and upon drug eruptions. The appearance of the pages has been greatly improved, and study facilitated, by the more liberal use of display type. Very few typographical errors are found, in addition to those to which the author calls attention at the beginning of the book ("tincture of the chlorate of iron," p. 225). In the section devoted to patent medicines we find an increased number of formulas and a few changes in title. On page 741 the author presents a very valuable table for computing the dosage of active ingredients in each drachm of mixture, the total quantity of the ingredients and the amount of the mixture being known. The index has been increased to the extent of one-half of a page. The use of the former edition during the past year for study and reference has confirmed the opinion expressed in the review of that edition. "The author has very skillfully steered his course between the pessimism that marks a system of therapeutics based solely on the results given by experiments and observations in the chemical and physiological laboratories, and the optimism of hasty empirical generalizations upon meagre clinical data."

R. W. W.